Agreements between India and other countries

†3698. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreements entered into by Government of India with other countries from January, 2000 to December, 2000;

(b) the economic and other benefits likely to accrue to India as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Indian Delegation to France

3699. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a five member Indian delegation has visited France recently;

(b) if so, whether France has given any assurance to the Indian delegation to unequivocal support for India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council; and

(c) if so, the details of the other issues discussed and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) Yes Sir. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and National Security Adviser visited France for the Sixth Round of the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue from 31 January to 1 February 2001.

(b) and (c) The French President, in his meeting with the Principal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Secretary to the Prime Minister, reiterated France's support to India for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Discussions during the Sixth Round of the Indo-French Strategic Dialogue covered a wide range of issues including international, regional and bilateral matters of mutual concern and developments in Asia and Europe. The discussions were part of the effort at bringing the relationship between India and France to a higher level.

Issuance of passports in NER

3700. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passports issued by Passport offices in NER during the last three years, year-wise and passport office-wise;

(b) the details of the applications pending in the passport offices for issuance of passport during the last six months; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) The passport applications from applicants in North-Eastern Region are dealt with by

(i) Regional Passport Office, Guwahati and
(ii) Regional Passport Office, Calcutta (in respect of applicants at Passport Application Collection Centre, Agartala.)

The details of passports issued at these two offices are as follows:

Year	RPO Guwahati	RPO Calcutta (in respect of PACC Agartala)
1998	12859	410
1999	14001	693
2000	14960	1013

(b) and (c) As of end March 2001 there were 50 applications at